

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An ointment external preparation for wounds for use in treatment of skin damages, comprising
- a water-soluble polymer in an uncross-linked state of 2 % or more based on the weight of the preparation,
 - a crosslinking agent in an amount of from 0.01% to 20% based on the weight of the preparation,
 - an iodine-based bactericidal agent in an amount of from 0.1% to 10% based on the weight of the preparation, and
 - a fluidization agent, and
 - a sugar in an amount of from 5% to 70% based on the weight of the preparation,
- wherein the moisture content of the preparation is 3% or less based on the weight of the preparation,
- the water-soluble polymer has carboxylic group or sulfonic acid group in its structure,
 - the water-soluble polymer in the preparation is in sol state before use, and then the water-soluble polymer simultaneously shows phase transition to gel after the preparation absorbs exudation in a wounded area of the skin, and
 - the crosslinking agent is a polyvalent metal salt having sufficient solubility to the exudation selected from the group consisting of an aluminum-containing cross-linking agent, a polyvalent metal chloride, a polyvalent metal bromide, a polyvalent metal oxide, a polyvalent metal salt of an organic acid, a polyvalent metal salt of a silicate, an aluminum-and-magnesium-containing compound, and a combination of at least two kinds thereof, and
 - the sugar is sucrose or a sugar having a therapeutic effect, wherein the sucrose is selected from the group consisting of refined sugar, granulated sugar and white soft sugar, and the sugar having a therapeutic effect is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, mannitol, fructose, glucose, xylitol, lactose, maltose, maltitol and trehalose.

2. **(Previously presented)** The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the content of the water-soluble polymer is 5% or more based on the weight of the preparation.

3-5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Previously presented)** The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble polymer is sodium polyacrylate.

7. **(Previously presented)** The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the polyvalent metal salt is aluminum-containing crosslinking agent.

8-12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Previously presented)** The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the fluidization agent is polyethylene glycol.

14. **(Previously presented)** The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the bactericidal agent is povidone iodine or iodine.

15. (Currently amended) An ointment external preparation for wounds for use in treatment of skin damages, comprising

a sodium polyacrylate in an uncross-linked state of 2% or more based on the weight of the preparation,

an aluminum-containing crosslinking agent in an amount of from 0.01% to 20% based on the weight of the preparation,

a sucrose in an amount of from 5% to 70% based on the weight of the preparation,

an iodine in an amount of from 0.1% to 10% based on the weight of the preparation, and polyethylene glycol,

wherein the moisture content of the preparation is 3% or less based on the weight of the preparation.

16. (New) The preparation according to Claim 1, wherein the sugar is granulated sugar or white soft sugar.